

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended to incorporate the continuation information, add proper section headings and correct for typographical errors. No new matter is added. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

George P. Simion  
Registration No. 47,089

JAO:GPS/jam

Date: January 15, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--